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SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

CHOU SAYS 8 MILLION DESTITUTE

40 MILLION HOMELESS -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 11 Jan 50

Hong Kong, 10 January ... Chou Enelai, Premier of the Central People's government of China, stated in a party organ last December that there are 8 million destitute in China as a result of natural calamities.

More than 40 million people were made homeless during last summer's flood which ravaged about 152,000 acres in North and Central China. Others are suffering from drought, invasion of insects, etc., Chou added.

KMT REPORTER SAYS 9 MILLION STARVING -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 30 Dec 49

Hong Kong, 28 December -- According to a telegram received from Chang Kuchsing, special correspondent for this newspaper, the Communist-occupied areas of China are suffering from famine affecting 50 million people, of whom some 9 million are starving. The hardest hit sector seems to lie north of the Ch'ang Chiang (Yangtze River), Chang said.

He also added that, in order to combat this worst famine in some 30 or 40 years, Chairman Mao is urging the use of refugees and the army to help the rurel areas back on their feet. The long odessey of peasants returning to the soil, begun shortly after the "liberation" of Shang-hai to relieve population pressure, has been reversed now to alleviate famine conditions in the villages. The Communist Trade Bureau recently announced that the food stocks in the urban areas will soon be inadequate to cope with the famine.

ISSUES DIRECTIVE FOR RELIEF OF CALAMITY AREAS --- Wen-hui Pao, 8 Jan 50

Pei-p'ing, 7 January -- On 6 January, the Ministry of Interior of the Central People's government issued the following directive to the responsible personnel handling relief for the calamity-stricken areas and the prevention of famine:

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"The paramount duty of the people's governments of all levels is to give relief to the people in the calamity-stricken areas. They shall study the local conditions and make the most feasible preparation to prevent famine.

"To do this job well, responsible personnel shall organize all available helpers and shall lead in relief work. They shall then formulate the best relier methods, forbid irrational and unfair distribution of relief grain, call on the afflicted people to help each other rehabilitate, and prevent anyone from leaving the calamity areas to burder other areas.

"In the flooded areas, preparations shall be made to start a great production in the spring. When spring approaches, the fast-growing crops shall be raised first, and fish shall be caught to replenish dwindling food stockpiles. It is also essential to maintain livestock and work animals, repair farm equipment, and accumulate fertilizer. Finally, at all times, the austerity program shall be continued under the slogan, "Convert Foodstuff into Production Capital."

KUANG-CHOU STARTS WINTER RELIEF WORK -- Wen-hui Pao, 27 Dec 49

Kuang-chou -- The 60-member Kuang-chou Winter Relief Committee of the Kuang-chou People's government held its first meeting on 26 December to set up the citywide winter relief program which begins in January and ends in March 1950.

The Frogram calls for: the sheltering of 2,000 destitute persons, including refugees from Huang-sha and Chu Chiang districts; the sending home of 10,000 displaced persons from other provinces, or from elsewhere in Kwangtung Province; and the lending of money at no Interest to 300 poor families to start small-scale home industries.

It was decided that 2,391,600,000 yuan in people's currency will be required for this program. Two billion yuan of this sum will be exacted from money sharks. The remainder will be raised by subscription in Kuang-chou, Hong Kong, and Amoy.

The meeting elected 15 members of the Standing Committee to facilitate this winter campaign. The Standing Committee will be organized into the following sections: recording, finance, sheltering, refugee relief, production loan, fund subscription, and publicity. Various city organized groups will assist the Standing Committee.

The chairman of the Winter Relief Committee is Li Chang-ta (Ueda: 4735, 8366, 12052), deputy mayor of Kuang-chou. The deputy chairmen are: Ch'en Jut'ang (12864, 5983, 5039), chief, Public Health Office, Kwangtung Provincial People's government, and Ku Kuan-hsien (1142, 12790, 11397), deputy chief, Political Bureau, Kuang-chou People's government.

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